

CENTRE REGION PARKS & RECREATION AUTHORITY
APPROVED BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 18, 2013

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Mascolo called the meeting of the CRRA Board to order at 12:15 PM at the Centre Region Senior Center with the following individuals in attendance:

Board (6 of 6): Mses. Mascolo, Matason, Ricketts, Conway; Messr. Hurley, Harpster

Others: Messrs. Woodhead, CRPR Director; Viglione, COG Finance Officer; Carpenter, Parks Supervisor; Wenger, CRPR Construction Manager; Pashek, Pashek & Associates; Popovich, AP Architects; Mses. Tourscher, Program Manager; Foulsham, CRPR Intern; Plozner, Senior Center Supervisor; Kisslak, Office Manager.

II. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - No comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion was made by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Ms. Matason to accept the minutes of the June 2013, CRRA Board meeting as presented. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous. Ms. Matason asked that the minutes be amended to include her report on their committee's Park Tour held in June. (This info has since been added.)

IV. VOUCHER REPORT

Motion was made by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Ms. Matason to accept the June 2013 vouchers as presented. Vote in favor of the motion was unanimous.

V. COMMITTEE REPORTS & MEMBER UPDATES

The **Patton Township** RAC heard a presentation from YSM Landscape Architects regarding the development of the Master Site Plan for Gray's Woods Park. The presentation also included materials from DCNR on vernal pools and their importance in the ecology, as well as different types of wildlife that reside in that same area. YSM made a report of their findings showing proposed entrance areas to the park. The second public meeting will be held in early August when YSM will give a full project presentation to the various groups and residents interested in the park plans. **Harris Township** will begin installation of updated playground equipment at Fasick Park. A housing developer has offered some space (a pond and ground) for a potential future park area. The location of this ground is near to where the new church is being developed. **SCASD's** summer ESL students (approx. 50 youth) visited Millbrook Marsh Nature Center and enjoyed the facilities.

VI. STAFF REPORTS

The **June Activity Report** was presented by the Agency Director. Mr. Woodhead noted that over \$400,000 of the YTD agency revenue is “pool related”. The poor weather and low temperatures to date have decreased attendance as compared to the same period last year. Based on weather projections and conservative budgeting, staff feels confident to meet the overall revenue projections. The loss of **rental house revenue at the Nature Center** has had a significant impact on the operating budget at MMNC. The future of this dwelling will be discussed over the new few months. Mr. Woodhead composed a letter to the State College Borough outlining the concerns staff has with regard to the proximity of **the Senior Center to the proposed Frasier Plaza** both during and after its construction. Mr. Harpster offered that the ground crew and tournament coordinators are doing a great job with the softball **field conditions at the Hess Complex**. The **Senior Games** was successful with over 175 participants. **Christmas in July** will be tomorrow where outside vendors rent a booth for \$25 and also contribute 10% of their sales to the Center. The craft room is slated to be reorganized in hopes of making space for some additional fee-based programs at the center.

VII. DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS

Oak Hall Regional Park - Following a motion by Mr. Hurley and seconded by Mr. Harpster, the authority unanimously approved Change Order #G-02 to reduce by 6 the cleanouts in the storm water basin under detention basin (deduct \$555.69) and to add 3 valves on 2” PVC water supply lines (add \$1,857.90) for a net total \$1,302.21. Mr. Pashek presented the value of adding the valves now versus the future (for future development plans).

Mr. Wenger, CRPR Construction Manager updated the Board on the progress at OHRP including recent **storm water drainage issues** on the site. In summary, the site remains in full compliance with all PA DEP stormwater requirements and has implemented additional measures to ensure there are backup facilities should the primary controls fail.

Mr. Pashek added that additional change orders are now in negotiations and will be presented over the course of the next few months. For example, the PA DEP has increased the size of the septic field initially projected for the park, additional code requirements for the restroom buildings and possibly some additional charges for the storm abatement measurements mentioned above.

OHRP Water Well Lease Agreement – CTWA, CRPR Staff and the COG solicitor are working through the final changes with regard to this project. Once complete, the document will go to this Board, the Parks Capital Committee and the General Forum for approvals.

The Capital Funding Assistance request for \$476,006 submitted to the **Central PA Convention & Visitor’s Bureau** has not been formally responded to, however Mr. Woodhead did ask for a status update via e-mail 60 days following the initial request. Staff at the Bureau stated that there will be an official letter drafted with their official response, however they indicated that we “are not going to get what we hoped for.”

Whitehall Road Regional Park – Mr. Pashek updated the board on the status of the project. If Toll Brothers declines or delays their proposed student housing project plans, there may be significant changes to the scope and timeline of the park project. In addition, in order to have the Land Development Plan Permit approved by Ferguson Township, staff must show the utility plans and the access associated with them (which will depend on the Toll Brothers project). There will also be discussions in the near future about the possibility of synthetic surfaces at the park. If special interest sports groups want this, the associated engineering, drainage and possibly maintenance costs associated should be part of that discussion.

With regard to the revised Master Site Plan approved for the park, PA DCNR staff outlined by phone three restrictions/conditions with regard to the \$300,000 in grant money they provided for the project: (1) that the parks maintenance facility be used for Parks and Recreation purposed only (no fire trucks, etc.); (2) that the administrative offices be only used for Parks and Recreation purposes (no fire trucks, etc) and (3) facilities must be “open to the public” more than 50% of the time. A letter from PA DCNR is expected shortly to confirm this information.

Centralized Parks Maintenance Facility - Four of the five municipalities have endorsed the plans outlined by COG Finance at either the \$2.55 million or the \$2.95 million level for 20-30 year financing. It is important that the annual \$165,000 capital improvement municipal contribution level not increase with this project. With regard to temporary housing for maintenance staff & equipment, Agency staff are reviewing available lease options for when the current facility at the State College Borough Public Works site must be vacated.

Nature Center Parking Area Improvement Project – College Township will be reviewing the plans and cost estimates prepared by Stahl-Sheaffer Engineering relating to this project. It has been proposed that this project be funded solely by capital donations.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the July meeting of the CRRA Board was adjourned. The Board will meet next on August 15, 2013 at the Spring Creek Education Building at the Millbrook Marsh Nature Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Christeen J. Kisslak, Recording Secretary

These minutes were approved by the Board on 15 Aug 2013.